

INTELLIFAX 5

CLASSIFICATION
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X REPORT NO.

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 27 FEB 50

SUBJECT Inspection Report on Various
Bereitschaften

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 1. Kirchmäuser near Brandenburg, Category A (Infantry Bereitschaft)
Chief: Polizeirat (former 1st Lt) Sommer.

- a. Housed in a cantonment, formerly occupied by Ostarbeiter (forced laborers from the Eastern areas) in the immediate vicinity of industrial installations belonging to a railway repair shop. Housing conditions are poor. The barracks have stone floors. Excessive dampness. Overcrowding. It is planned to construct two new buildings with living accommodations and one staff building during 1950. A building estimate for 1950 in the amount of 900 000 East Markshas been put in.
- b. Equipped with small arms and light MG's.
- c. Terrain set aside for training and sports considered adequate. The right to use land belonging to the Railway repair shop will have to be negotiated in Berlin.
- d. Up to the T/O strength. Approximately 30% of the effectives drawn from border police personnel. Morale of the latter particularly poor inasmuch as the liberties enjoyed heretofore have been curtailed. Utterances have become known which permit the inference that they are unreliable, e.g. "The time will come when we will chase the Russians behind the Urals and hang our officers."

Generally poor discipline is attributed to the way the personnel was handled by the former head of the Bereitschaft, (fnu) Kuhnisch. Everybody is addressed as "Du".

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- e. A Soviethnik has been assigned.
- 2. Apollensdorf near Wittenberg/Elbe. Category C (armored) Bereitschaft. Chief: Oberpolizeirat Henkler (non-commissioned officer in the German Army - instructor of tank drivers).
 - a. Personnel is housed in well kept, solid buildings, formerly occupied by workers of the ammunition plant in Reinsberg. The buildings are located in a wood at the edge of Apollensdorf. Within the area there are some private houses left with appr. 10 families living in them. Requests to have them evacuated have thus far remained unavailing. Activities during duty hours can be observed from those houses.
 - b. Building plans for 1950 call for garages and a repair shop for armored vehicles.
 - c. Equipped with small arms and light machine guns.
 - d. Armored vehicles: One T 34, self-propelled mount Russian, one self-propelled mount (Russian make) with a 7.62 gun; Eight light tanks, type "Churchill", armed with MG's.
 - e. Shortage of driving instructors and other technical personnel.
 - f. No gasoline allotted for training purposes. A limited emergency supply.
 - g. All equipment and vehicles for training purposes only.
 - h. Terrain for training purposes (incl. the operation of armored equipment) adequate. Permission to use this terrain will have to be obtained from the owners of the Nitrogen Plant at Plesteritz, a Soviet AG.
 - i. General impression of the "Objekt" is favorable. The personnel behaves in a disciplined manner. Quarters are kept clean.
 - j. The chief of the Bereitschaft is qualified for his position.
 - k. The Soviethnik is a major in the armored branch of the Soviet Army. His assistant is a lieutenant in the MVD (presumably MGB).
- 3. Erfurt - Category A Bereitschaft. Chief: Oberpolizeirat Helbing.
 - a. Housed in a former monastery on the Petersberg. A solid, old stone building, providing adequate living space. The building plan for 1950 provides for the construction of a quartermaster building and a day-room.
 - b. Drill grounds available. The former garrison training grounds are at a far distance and currently occupied by the Army of occupation. Rifle range available.
 - c. Normal category A armament.
 - d. One Soviethnik.

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4. Gera - Category A Bereitschaft. Chief: Oberpolizeirat Moschinski
 - a. Housed in factory buildings, formerly "Technische Werke", located in the Lugon district. Housing facilities good and plentiful.
 - b. Drill grounds and training areas. Rifle range available.
 - c. Up to T/O strength.
 - d. One Soviethnik.
5. Weissenfels - Category A Bereitschaft. Chief: Oberpolizeirat Meyer.
 - a. Housed in military compound. Sufficient living space.
 - b. Training area adequate. Rifle range available.
 - c. Normal category A armament.
 - d. One Soviethnik.
6. Apolda, Thuringia. Category B (Artillery) Bereitschaft. Chief: Oberpolizeirat Rös.
 - a. Bereitschaft quartered in good solid buildings, formerly a textile factory.
 - b. Drill fields have to be levelled before they can be used. No training areas available. In order to obtain land for this purpose private property will have to be touched. Firing ranges will have to be constructed.
 - c. Equipped with small arms and machine guns. Heavy weapons: 1 Light Field Howitzer 18 and 1 75mm Anti-Tank Gun for training purposes only. A total of 12 guns scheduled.
 - d. Among the staff officers are no artillery experts. It is contemplated to replace the staff with professionals in the near future.
 - e. The Bereitschaft is up to strength.
 - f. One Soviethnik.